

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Department of Biochemistry

BOYD GRADUATE STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER

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MB

Dr. Frederic W. Nordsiek
Associate Scientific Director
The Council for Tobacco Research - U.S.A., Inc.
110 East 59th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Dr. Nordsiek:

Enclosed are my comments regarding the proposal of Dr. Mandl.
If you have any other proposals which you feel I might be qualified
to review, please do not hesitate to send them to me.

I am planning to attend the International Congress of Biochemistry
in Stockholm, Sweden and would like to use some of the travel funds
in my Tobacco Grant for this trip. Would you be so kind as to send
me a letter authorizing the use of travel funds for foreign travel.
I believe you have no objection to using travel funds for foreign
travel, if my memory is correct, but our business office requires
some type of letter from you.

Yours sincerely,

James Travis
James Travis
Associate Professor

JT/mb

Enclosure

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Review of Proposal No. 907

Dr. Mandl proposes to culture fibroblasts from several cell lines in both the presence and absence of smoke constituents, to isolate elastin from the tissue cultures, and to investigate the comparative compositions of the elastins isolated by amino acid analysis and sequential analysis. She suggests that these analyses will give some insight into the effect of smoke constituents on the types of elastins elaborated and may give indications as to possible damage to specific enzymes required for the formation of the complex elastin molecule.

While the overall ideas suggested by Dr. Mandl are good, I question whether she is really prepared to perform the proposed experiments. The immediate problem would be whether there are enough human cell lines available for culturing. This is not clear from the proposal as it skips back and forth from humans to other animals and I seriously question whether one can compare mouse elastin with human elastin. I will admit, however, that the effects of smoke constituents on the composition of elastin from an individual cell line would make a very interesting and revealing study.

This brings me to another important point. It is obvious that the Principal Investigator is biting off far more than she can chew. Her productivity has not been good in the past few years (note the references to three un-refereed papers in "Pulmonary Emphysema and Proteolysis") and she should be concentrating on a much smaller area.

Finally, just because a sequenator is present in a building does not mean it is available for use. Furthermore, the isolation of peptides is an arduous task and none of her colleagues appear to have much experience in peptide sequencing.

SUMMARY: While this is an interesting proposal I feel the Principal Investigator should restrict herself to a much smaller aspect of the problem, at least initially. I recommend that if funds are available she be given about \$20,000 for the first year. She certainly needs no more. Frankly, the budget is written as if she were the general of an army fighting a battle against emphysema.

Rating: Good, but not very good.

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